



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School

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21st June 2016

Dear Families

I am delighted to write to you as the new Headteacher of Sydenham School and I am very much looking forward to joining the school community in September. I have lived in south London for over 30 years and I am aware of the strong reputation that Sydenham has enjoyed during that time for being an inclusive and vibrant school. I know that there are many good features to build on and I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity by the Governors to lead Sydenham to becoming a great school.

I believe that securing outstanding learning and teaching, across all subjects in the school, must be our core aim. Teaching should be engaging, challenging and relevant. Students should be encouraged to ask questions, develop enquiring minds and genuinely enjoy their learning. I also firmly believe that the academic and vocational outcomes that students achieve are essential passports that significantly shape their life chances and open doors. As educators, it is our duty to make sure that no student falls behind or fails and that each and every one of them achieves the very best that they can.

Of course, students also need to feel safe and valued by the school. There is much in the news currently about the 'mental health' of young people. There will continue to be an emphasis at Sydenham School on ensuring that there is access to high quality provision for those students who may need support, whenever that might be, during their seven years in the school.

Any ambitions that I may have for Sydenham School are very much dependent on the essential partnership that must exist between home and school. I know that the majority of families already engage extremely well with the school and actively support the ethos of the school. We will continue to create opportunities for families to come into the school to meet with staff, discuss the social and academic progress of their child and celebrate the many successes. I am happy to meet with families in order to discuss anything that affects their child's learning and progress at school. As a mother myself, I know how important it is to be able to have direct and reliable contact with the school that your child attends, should you need to. Please do contact my PA, Christine Lovelace, if you would like to speak with me or meet me in person.

The students at Sydenham School should get to know me quickly as I plan to be visible and 'around and about' the school site as much as possible. This will include being at the school gate at the end of the day, being around at break times and at lunchtimes too. I will also be going into lessons as a matter of course and look forward to seeing the progress that students continue to make in their learning.



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- 2 -

Along with my colleagues, I will have the highest expectations of students in all aspects of what they do. I have no hesitation in sharing with you that I will bring some 'old fashioned', or perhaps better described as 'timeless', values to my leadership of Sydenham School such as kindness, fairness, courtesy, endeavour and self-discipline, as I believe that these values are lifelong ones that support young people to become good citizens and ones which contribute to making the world a better place.

There will also be a renewed focus on all students wearing their school uniform correctly and smartly at all times. It is very important that students look smart at school as well as on the way to and from school. Outside of school our students represent the school and are ambassadors for all that it stands for.

I would like to thank Mrs Holden for her expert leadership of the school over this academic year. Aside from also continuing to be responsible for Bonus Pastor School, Mrs Holden has been determined to ensure that standards have not been compromised here at Sydenham School either. We are all enormously grateful to Mrs Holden for all that she has done and achieved and wish her and Bonus Pastor School every future success.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and peaceful summer holiday when you get there and I look forward to meeting you in September.

Yours sincerely

G. Lowe

GLORIA LOWE
Headteacher



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